

## **What is claimed is:**

**[Claim 1]** 1. An optical switch comprising:

a plasma field.

**[Claim 2]** 2. The switch of claim 1 wherein:

said plasma field is generated electronically.

**[Claim 3]** 3. The switch of claim 2 further comprising:

a positive electrode; and

a negative electrode.

**[Claim 4]** 4. The switch of Claim 1 further comprising:

an inlet port; and

a plurality of outlet ports.

**[Claim 5]** 5. The switch of Claim 4 further comprising:

a plasma chamber.

**[Claim 6]** 6. The switch of Claim 5 wherein:

said inlet port and said plurality of outlet ports are contained within said plasma chamber.

**[Claim 7]** 7. The switch of Claim 1 wherein:

said plasma field is generated by a laser.

**[Claim 8]** 8. The switch of Claim 1 wherein:

a light signal is reflected by said plasma field.

**[Claim 9]** 9. The switch of Claim 1 further wherein:

The electron density of the plasma field is varied to alter the path of a light signal through the plasma field.

**[Claim 10]** 10. An optical switch comprising:

a gas; and

a means for generating a plasma field in said gas.

**[Claim 11]** 11. The optical switch of Claim 10 further comprising:

an inlet port; and

an outlet port.

**[Claim 12]** 12. The optical switch of Claim 10 further comprising:

a lens.